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the WORLD COUNCIL of CHURCHES (in process of formation)
the INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
the WORLD ALLIANCE for INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES
the WORLD ALLIANCE of YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
the WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
the WORLD'S STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION
the WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The aim of the Ecumenical Press Service is to keep its readers informed of trends of thought and opinion in and about the Churches and Christian movements. It is therefore not to be held responsible for opinions expressed in its news items.

No. 42 — Fourteenth Year — November 28, 1947

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SPAIN

Motives for Anti-Protestant Feelings

The following quotations from a leaflet distributed by the Phalangists show that the action of the Phalangists who committed acts of vandalism in Protestant places of worship is instigated by utterances of certain Spanish church leaders.

"For two years Protestants have been fighting to implant Protestantism within our country, and this is threatening to rupture our Catholic unity and no less our national unity, founded as it is on the Catholic basis... This very serious evil was publicly denounced by Cardinal Segura in the official ecclesiastic bulletin of the Archbishop of Seville on September 20, 1947... On the other hand, Mgr Zacarias Vizcarra, General Councillor of the Spanish Catholic action, made the following inauguration speech when the central Institute of higher religious education opened its courses on October 15:

"'In the world of ideas, which sooner or later dominates the world of facts and social events, a new still more aggressive enemy has appeared in Spain and is adding its anti-Catholic and anti-national action to that of our many enemies among the Left-wing intelligentsia... This new enemy is Protestantism which, in various parts of Spain has taken disquieting offensive action against the Catholic Church, disturbing the religious and social peace of our country. Not only have the old chapels and Protestant propaganda centres been re-opened, but new ones have been founded on a large scale; important buildings have been acquired thanks to the financial help given from abroad and have been placed in strategically good positions, and we do not know for what this halp was really intended.'

"We cannot forget that a few years ago, the whole of Spain rose to defend her faith in an heroic crusade... however its importance is betilled by 'the ridiculous Protestant sects who raise their tents on the blood of our martyrs' ("Signo", October 18, 1947). His Eminence Cardinal Segura writes these beautiful words in his pastoral letter, which should touch all our hearts to the call of blood and because we are Christians:

"'There is no doubt that we can cite the witness of thousands of martyrs who gave their blood to defend their faith in order to lend support to our request aimed at suppressing these centres of false religion in Spain. Undoubtedly those who have generously sacrificed their lives have done so in order to defend the Catholic faith. They speak to us and say, with the Apostle Paul: Keep that which is committed to thy trust.'

"Spain will return to the unity of faith sealed by the Madonna of Pilar. All those in authority should ruthlessly extirpate this particularly serious evil. All Spanish Catholics have the duty - and we promise to fulfil it - not to consent to the development of Protestant activity in our national territory..." E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATES — Dr E. Stanley Jones' Crusade

According to a statement made by Dr E. Stanley Jones on the progress of his crusade for uniting the 255 Protestant denominations of America into a united Church (see E.P.S. No. 40), a committee of 100 Protestant leaders, the majority laymen, will convene in the Autumn of 1948 to build the framework of a constitution for a United Church of America. "Forty thousand prominent laymen and clergy, said Dr Jones, have signed cards indicating they are ready to work at once for the establishment of the United Church." E.P.S. Geneva

NETHERLANDS — Conference of Theological Students

From November 4 to December 4, an ecumenical conference of theological students is being held at Bentveld, under the auspices of the Society of theological students in Holland and of the World Council of Churches of the Netherlands. There are about 60 people taking part, of which 30 are Dutch and 15 German; other nationalities include Czechs, Hungarians, Austrians and Swiss. They come from 20 different theological faculties. Courses are given by professors of all the theological faculties of the Netherlands. The main desire of those organising the conference was to bring the Germans out of their moral isolation. E.P.S. Geneva

GREECE — A Memorable Year

The arrival of St. Paul the Apostle in Greece nineteen centuries ago will be celebrated in 1950. The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece has announced that it will invite representatives from all parts of the Christian world to celebrations in that year. Preliminary plans for the occasion are already being studied. E.P.S. Geneva

YUGOSLAVIA — Archbishop of York's Visit

At the end of October Dr Cyril Forster Garbett, Archbishop of York, visited Yugoslavia where he met Patriarch Gavrilo, head of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and had interviews with Marshal Tito, Vladimir Velebit, the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other government representatives.

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YUGOSLAVIA

American Pastors on Church Situation

Seven American Protestant clergymen who visited Yugoslavia last summer have now issued their full report on religious conditions in that country. They are members of the following Churches and organisation: Protestant Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran Church, Methodist Church and the International Association on Religious Liberty. Considerable discussion has taken place in the American religious press as to whether the journey of these church leaders, made under the auspices of the Yugoslav Government, was justified and whether their impressions were based on sufficiently thorough investigation of the facts. In its report the group states:

"There is in Yugoslavia today a genuine equality of religion before the law and the beginnings of a true tolerance. Of course only two and a half years after a terrible war there are tension points yet to be resolved with the possibility of occasional outbreaks of violence. But the basic pattern seems sound and the door seems open to a religious peace such as the Balkans have never known in the past."

The groups says it was given complete freedom on its tour to talk to "anyone to whom we wished to speak and to go where we wished, without government representatives present, an opportunity of which we took full advantage."

The report reaffirms statements previously made by the seven ministers that "there is today in Yugoslavia complete freedom of worship and respect for religious institutions". It adds, however, the following qualification:

"There is one important aspect of religious liberty about which we wish we felt more certain - both in Yugoslavia and elsewhere. We refer to the freedom of the Church to criticise and to speak out prophetically on questions of national welfare. We are not convinced that the Churches in Yugoslavia can claim this right or that they have wanted it. Even in America this right is questioned by many who dub as political all pronouncements by the Church in the field of social welfare." E.P.S. Geneva

SYRIA

The Patriarch of Antioch and the Russian Church

The head of the Syrian Orthodox Church is Patriarch Alexandros Tahan of Antioch. There are 250,000 Orthodox Christians of Syria and the Lebanon and about 300,000 parishioners scattered throughout North and South America, under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch.

In an interview on November 7, the Patriarch of Antioch declared that he had accepted the invitation of Patriarch Alexis of Moscow to attend the Church Congress of Orthodox leaders, which was to have taken place this year in September, but which has however been postponed to the Summer of 1948 (see EPS No. 33). At the same time he pointed out that "the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Alexandria have declined invitations, while other Patriarchates have so far not replied". The Orthodox Churches, he asserted, "ought to bless the name of God that the Church in Russia has revived." E.P.S. Geneva

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UNITED STATES

Missionary Programme for the Philippines

The Philippine Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America met on November 5-6, 1947 to discuss the programme of advance for the Philippines, looking towards a five-year period of special emphasis on the various projects of Protestant Missions in the Philippine Republic.

The careful study of the rural problem made by Mr. John H. Reisner on his recent visit to the Philippines was presented. In his report Mr. Reisner said: "I was impressed by the great amount of destruction caused by the war - not only in Manila but out in the provinces. In relation to its size and population, it seems to me the Philippines suffered more heavily than any other Asiatic country. Certainly the agricultural losses were by far the heaviest. The Evangelical Churches being predominantly rural, it is these groups that need help most and for whom there is least help, especially in well trained leadership, because they are unable economically to command it. The response to the possibilities of a programme of service and training that would aid in general rehabilitation and in strengthening the rural Churches was most encouraging."

The other projects discussed by the Philippine Committee are the development of Christian education, the use of broadcast for evangelism, an advance programme in hospitals and public health. "Church World Service" is doing excellent work of emergency relief, sending mobile medical units, medicines and supplies to many of the afflicted areas. This Service has also sent large supplies of medicines and many books for schools, colleges and theological seminars. E.P.S. Geneva

INDIA

Help to Displaced Persons

In response to the needs of the refugees on the border between India and Pakistan, among whom medical personnel, drugs, and hospital and clinical facilities are woefully inadequate, Church World Service has sent Mr. E.D.Lucas to give service to the Relief Committee of the National Christian Council of India. Church World Service is shipping medical supplies, some by air, and powdered milk, multi-vitamin tablets, wheat, blankets and warm clothing. It is estimated that there are ten million displaced persons on both sides of the border. E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATES

Missionary Flying School

At Winona Lake, Ind. there has been a Flying School for future missionaries since January 1945. Hundred recruits have been to this centre since it was opened and 26 of those who have finished the course are today flying in various countries. One of these, flying over Ecuador, had to make a forced landing in the jungle. He wandered about for six days until he was discovered by an inhabitant.

The air-field and hangars are now being rebuilt. Above the entire airfield where there is lively activity, the motto of the Pilot school is written up in large letters: "God is my co-pilot". E.P.S. Geneva

UNITED STATES

Preliminary Programme for the Philippines

The Philippine Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America met on November 5-6, 1947 to discuss the programme of service for the Philippines, looking towards a five-year period of special emphasis on the various projects of Protestant Missions in the Philippine Archipelago.

The careful study of the rural problem made by Mr. John H. Talmage on his recent visit to the Philippines was presented. In his report Mr. Talmage said: "I was impressed by the great amount of destruction caused by the war - not only in Manila but out in the provinces. In relation to life and population, it seems to me the Philippines suffered more heavily than any other Asiatic country. Certainly the spiritual losses were by far the heaviest. The evangelical churches being predominantly rural, it is those groups that need help most and for whom there is least help, especially in well trained leadership, because they are unable economically to command it. The response to the possibilities of a programme of service and training that would aid in general rehabilitation and in strengthening the rural churches was most encouraging."

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K.I.S. Survey

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In response to the report of the refugees on the border between India and Pakistan, many more medical personnel, nurses, and hospital and clinical facilities are urgently needed. Church World Service has sent Mr. [illegible] to give service to the United Committee of the National Christian Council of India. Church World Service is sending medical supplies, some by air, the powered milk, multi-vitamin tablets, sugar, blankets and warm clothing. It is estimated that there are ten million displaced persons on both sides of the border.

K.I.S. Survey

UNITED STATES

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At Wilson Lake, Ind. there has been a flying school for [illegible] midshipmen since January 1945. Hundred recruits have been to this [illegible] since it was opened and 50 of those who have finished the course are today flying in various countries. One of these, flying over Dresden, had to a [illegible] forced landing in the jungle. He wandered about for six days until he was discovered by an Indian tribe.

The air-field and hangars are now being rebuilt. Above the entire air-field where there is lively activity, the motto of the Flight School is written up in large letters: "God is my co-pilot".

K.I.S. Survey

GERMANY The "Detmold" Group of Lutherans

The German Evangelical Church (EKD) was established in 1933 as a federation of Lutheran, Reformed and Unionist Churches . Since 1936 the Lutherans have been divided. They separated because of differences in opinion regarding tactical procedure. The Lutheran Churches of Bavaria, Hanover and Württemberg and some others formed the "Council of the Lutheran Church in Germany". The Lutheran parishes in Prussia and the small Lutheran Church of Oldenburg did not join this Council. The Prussian Lutherans had special contacts with the Reformed and Unionist congregations, with whom they had been united - since 1817- under common church authorities.

After the collapse of Germany all German Evangelical Churches met at Treysa, in 1945. The Bavarian-Hanoverian group of Lutherans urged the forming of a "United Lutheran Church in Germany" (VELKD). The other group of Lutherans emphasised the importance of not giving up brotherly communion (though not "union") with the Reformed and the Unionist Churches, which had found its expression in the famous Synod of Barmen in 1934, where Lutherans, Reformed and Unionists joined in rejecting the heresy of the "Deutsche Christen" (German Christians). More than 50% of the Lutheran congregations do not feel that they are represented by the "United Lutheran Church". They had a conference at Detmold in 1947. Bishop Wurm was present. From the theological point of view the VELKD is largely influenced by the faculty of Erlangen, the Detmold group being now under the influence of H. Asmussen, J. Beckmann (a Lutheran from Düsseldorf and well known member of the Confessing Church) and Bishop W. Stählin of Oldenburg.

The Detmold group neither wishes a mixture of faiths nor a union. But the "Detmolders" feel that God has brought the different Churches to better mutual understanding and to real brotherhood. They are trying to find out the consequences of these changes for the self-interpretation of the Lutheran Church and they are trying to bridge the gap between the different Protestant Churches. They maintain the Lutheran confession but they are prepared to listen to what other Churches think. They do not want the separation between Lutherans to continue. The "Detmolder" aim at a Lutheran Church looking forward and acting in an active ecumenical responsibility and they want to avoid further separations in the Evangelical Church of Germany. The difference between the Lutheran groups may not be fundamental but is not without importance. E.P.S.Geneva

GERMANY Present Grouping in the German Church

The Conference of the Lutheran Churches and parishes, known as the "Detmold Group" has made a declaration to the Lutheran Churches of Germany which are bound together in the Lutheran Council, and this declaration has been signed by Bishop Wurm, President D. Asmussen, Bishop Stählin, Dr Beckmann, Superintendent Kunst, Professor Maurer and Pastor Schlatter.

This declaration affirms the desire of gathering all Lutheran Churches and parishes together. The declaration states: "We certainly have the impression that God has brought us to a turning point in Church history, when we cannot rest content with a Christian Church in which the confessional frame bears

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the imprint of the 16th century. During the last centuries, and not least through our common struggle and common suffering we have become united in brotherly communion surpassing all barriers." The Detmold Group therefore aims at ecumenical unity instead of union, just as the Lutheran Church from the beginning wished to become an ecumenical Church. "But the ecumenical Church is not a uniform mass, but a fellowship of Churches, which order its life according the special spiritual gifts of each Church. We also regard the Evangelical Church in Germany as a fellowship of this kind." The Detmold Group therefore asks the Lutheran Council to send representatives to discuss self-interpretation and tasks of Lutheranism within the Ecumenical Church.

At the same time, the Detmold Group addresses all who do not belong to the Lutheran Council, particularly Lutherans belonging to Unionist Churches. "We ask", the declaration goes on, "that you make it possible for our brothers of the Lutheran Council to remain in the EKD, and to cooperate with us and others without violating their own belief, in that you are true to your own faith. The authenticity of our Barmen witness and of the struggle against church authorities who were not loyal to the faith is in the balance. There can be no doubt that the Lutheran and Reformed faiths have rules for Church order, which have not yet been fully developed but which are not however superfluous... Anybody who wishes the faith to become effective is working for ecumenical unity. Anyone who acts hastily and ignores or wilfully puts aside tasks which have not yet been accomplished, in the manner of some Unionists, only creates a new confession alongside those which already exist."

The Detmold Group therefore declares that it will ask the Fraternal Council of Germany and also the Conference of the United Church and the Reformed Church to hold discussion on how to make the faiths effective.

E.P.S.Geneva

GERMANY

Practical Suggestions of the "Hilfswerk" of the Evangelical Churches

In the meeting of the Reconstruction Committee of the Evangelical Churches in Germany (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Deutschlands), which took place recently in Bielefeld, the leader of the Hilfswerk, Dr Gerstenmaier made a number of practical suggestions, among which we would stress the following:

Reorganisation of conditions concerning property.- "We need better justice than the ill-famed right (claimed by the Nazis) of the 'sound feelings of the people'. We must set a solidarity of misery against the horror of misery... For it is the whole of Germany that has lost this war, not only those who were bombed out or turned out. To the homeless and those who have lost everything the Church owes not only comfort and advice but also undivided support of their rights. We shall have to consider a new regulation of conditions of property which must be the expression of the solidarity of the whole nation. Justice and not the doctrine of party conflict must play the main part.

the Lupwith of the 16th century. During the last centuries, and not least through our common struggle and common suffering we have become united in brotherly communion surpassing all barriers." The Detmold Group then goes on to sketch out why instead of union, just as the Lutheran Church from the beginning sought to become an ecumenical Church, "But the ecumenical Church is not a uniform mass, but a fellowship of Churches, which order the life according the special spiritual gifts of each Church. We also regard the Evangelical Church in Germany as a fellowship of this kind." The Detmold Group therefore asks the Lutheran Council to send representatives to discuss self-interpretation and tasks of Lutheranism within the Ecumenical Church.

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The Detmold Group therefore believes that it will ask the Evangelical Council of Germany and also the Conference of the United Church and the Reformed Church to hold discussion on how to make the Faith effective.

G.E.G.G.Gray

CHURCH Press and Recognitions of the Confessional of the Evangelical Church

In the months of the Reconstitution Committee of the Evangelical Churches in Germany (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Deutschlands), which took place recently in Stuttgart, the leader of the Hilfswerk, Dr Gerstenmaier made a number of practical suggestions, among which we would stress the following:

Reorganization of constituent ecumenical projects.- "We must a new institution than the Hilfswerk right (related by the Hilfswerk) of the 'sound conscience of the people'. We must set a minimum of minority against the Berlin or Hilfswerk. For it is the wish of Germany that the last this war, not only those who were beaten out or turned out, to the problems and there who been last from the Church. Church does not only contact and advice but also material support of the victim. We shall have to consider a new revision of conditions of property which must be the expression of the authority of the church within nation, and not the decision of party conflict must play the main part."

New conditions of labour.- The reorganisation of conditions of property alone is not enough. We need new conditions of labour, and the common view that any so-called mental work is more important than manual work will have to be altered. Hundreds of thousands of us will have to learn, literally speaking, to earn our bread by working with our hands - or else to perish. The Churches ought to see what has to be done and to make better conditions of life and work possible and easier. The Hilfswerk will always do its best to give new possibilities for those who are willing to work.

Cooperation of help from abroad and local relief.- In Church matters everything is based on voluntary help, and therefore everything is the expression of faith. It was the free exercise of Christian energy that made the work of Wichern or of Bodelschwingh possible. We remain therefore in that tradition when we consider freedom of initiative not as a prerogative of the Church but as our duty, endeavouring to find new ways, with the small means at present at our disposal, of dealing with so many various kinds of important questions such as settlement, economic conditions and development of communal life. The cooperation between help from abroad and local relief, the collaboration of all organisations for work and help and of the inhabitants with refugees, the gathering together of all who are willing to work into settlement organisations, - these are but a few hints to show how freedom of initiative can be used to good purpose.

We believe we can see part of the task that is before us. Outwardly, to regain the basis of living for millions of people in Germany coming from the Eastern zone. Inwardly, turning away from nihilism, the return home of millions of Germans to the quiet and calm of God's peace which, according to the word of the Apostle, 'passeth all understanding'." E.P.S. Geneva

GERMANY

Death of Pastor Martin Dibelius

Professor Martin Dibelius has died in Heidelberg from tuberculosis, at the age of 64 years. Professor Dibelius who for many years has been active in ecumenical work is particularly known for his New Testament research; he particularly tried to show, that the rise of the Gospels can be explained by the witness of the first Christians. E.P.S. Geneva

HUNGARY

The Orthodox Church in Hungary

After returning from Moscow last October, the Archpriest John de Varju was nominated administrator of the Orthodox Church of Hungary.

During the last war this Church was attached to the Metropolitan Seraphim Ladde of Berlin. At the present time it comes under the jurisdiction of the Patriarchate of Moscow, through the intermediary of Archbishop Sergius of Vienna, Exarch of the Patriarch for Central Europe. The Orthodox theological faculty of Budapest has a number of clergy serving 50,000 parishioners scattered over the country. E.P.S. Geneva